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from plague, an increase of 3; 1 from lymphatitis pernicioso, the same as before; and 54 from tuberculosis, a decrease of 2.

Respectfully,
 EDWARD W. AMES,
Vice Consul-General and Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

Quarantine against West Indian Islands.

TRINIDAD, BRITISH WEST INDIES, *January 16, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report for the information of the Department of State that the quarantine imposed on the West Indian Islands has been raised (vide my dispatches Nos. 72 and 73, dated December 9 and December 13, 1901, respectively).

Respectfully,
 ALVIN SMITH,
United States Consul.
 HERBERT H. D. PEIRCE.

CUBA.

Vital statistics of Havana for December, 1901—The mosquito and yellow fever.

HAVANA, CUBA, *January 9, 1902.*

SIR: I herewith forward vital statistics for the month of December, 1901. The last month of the year 1901 shows the same steady improvement in general sanitary conditions that has been going on for the other months. The number of deaths, 463, gives a death rate of 20.47. In December, 1900, there were 485 deaths, giving a death rate of 23.28. Since last December the population of Havana, outside of the ordinary increase, has been augmented by the incorporation of the suburb of Regla.

Taking the last nine years of Spanish rule, from 1890 to 1898, inclusive, we find that the minimum number of deaths for December occurred in 1893, when there were 517, with a death rate of 28.32; the maximum, 1,924 deaths, in 1897, giving a rate of 100.08 per 1,000.

Taking the three years of American occupation, we have for December, 1899, 534 deaths; for December, 1900, 485 deaths, and for December, 1901, 463 deaths, showing a progressive decrease, which is the best indication of the general sanitary conditions of the city, and places Havana in the class of healthy cities of the civilized world, having an equal population.

Very few cases of infectious diseases occurred during the month and not a case of either yellow fever or smallpox. The last case of smallpox occurred in July, 1900, and the last case of yellow fever on September 28, 1901. There were but 4 deaths from typhoid fever during the month.

I consider any likelihood of yellow fever for this season as about over, and for this reason, I felt justified in decreasing the work of the department to a very great extent. The mosquito work, however, will be kept up during the winter, and the report shows that the amount of work done in this line is undiminished.

In the report, we have designated the brigade working in the city as the "Stegomyia brigade," as this brigade has principally to do with this mosquito; and the brigade working in the suburbs as the "Anopheles brigade," as this mosquito is generally found in that district.

We follow the lead of Surgeon Major Ross, the English surgeon, so distinguished in this field, in adopting this nomenclature.

The report says that during the month 16,121 houses were inspected and oiled by the "Stegomyia brigade." In these 16,000 houses only 1.5 per cent were found to have the mosquito larvæ on the premises. When the first inspection was made by this brigade, last March, the same houses had deposits at the rate of 100 per cent. This does not mean that every house had larvæ; many houses were found that had several receptacles which contained larvæ.

So far temperature has had no effect in preventing the breeding of larvæ in outdoor deposits. They apparently breed as freely as they did during the warm weather of the summer.

But the matter most deserving of comment is the entire disappearance of yellow fever during this month and the two preceding months. This has never occurred in Havana before, and, taken together with the record of the year, seems to confirm the claim that yellow fever has been rooted out of Havana, after more than a century of continuous existence here.

Taking December from 1890 to 1900, inclusive, we find the minimum number of deaths from yellow fever to have been 8 in 1897; the maximum, 147, in 1896; the average for the eleven years, 29.90. For 1901, there were no cases and no deaths. We have fairly accurate records of the deaths in Havana from yellow fever from the year 1871, and these tables show the figures for December to average about the same as those quoted above.

Again, considering the yellow fever year as commencing April 1, and comparing the same eleven years, the minimum number of deaths for the nine months was 101 and occurred in 1899; the maximum 1,262, in 1896; the average 440. This year we had only 5 deaths in that period—that is, this year we had only one twentieth of the lowest recorded number of deaths from this disease. The chart of the body of the report brings out well the relations of the various years.

Again, if we take the months of October, November, and December, from 1890 to 1900, inclusive, we find that the smallest number of deaths for these months is 52, in 1898; the largest, 631, in 1896, and the average 144.54. In 1901, for the same period we had no deaths. Nineteen hundred and one is the only year in which any attention has been paid to mosquitoes in connection with yellow fever. In the two preceding years of American occupation, 1899 and 1900, every means known to science, and which money could command, backed by unlimited military authority, was used to destroy fomites, on the theory that fomites were the means of propagating yellow fever. In 1901, the same efforts were directed to the destruction of mosquitoes, on the theory that the mosquito is the only means of propagating this disease, and the hygiene of yellow fever was carried out from this point of view, the effort to destroy fomites having been entirely laid aside.

These are the facts in the case, and I leave the department commander to draw his own conclusions therefrom.

Respectfully,

W. C. GORGAS,

Major and Surgeon, U. S. A., Chief Sanitary Officer.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Department of Cuba, Havana.